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Pentagon Kills 'Big Brother' Memo by Navy

The Defense Department has killed a Navy "big brother" directive, it was learned today.

The directive advised civilian empoyes to seek "wise and mature counsel" before linking up with persons or organizations of a political or civic nature.

A Senate Constitutional Rights subcommittee became interested in the directive weeks ago, and raised questions about it.

The document was issued under the Navy's security program and was headed "suggested counsel to employes."

It said: "A number of our citizens unwittingly expose themselves to unfavorable or suspicious appraisal which they can and should avoid.

"This may take the form of an indiscreet remark; an unwise selection of friends or associates; membership in an organization whose true objectives are concealed behind a popular and innocuous title; attendance at and participation in the meetings and functions of such organizations even though not an official member; or any of numerous other clever means designed to attract support under false colors or serving to impress an individual with his own importance."

Therefore, the directive said, "it is advisable to study and seek wise and mature counsel prior to association with persons or organizations of any political or civic nature, no matter what their apparent motives may be, in order to determine the true motives and purposes of the organization in question."

The Navy document did not specify to whom the employes should turn for the "wise and mature counsel." Presumably, such counsel was available from the Navy.

The directive said that "the simple principles of good citizenship require that all enthusiasm for well sounding functions be tempered with the wisdom of full knowledge of the real forces and aims behind them, so that well meaning citizens will not be unwittingly led into aiding and promoting forces which are contrary to their own basic beliefs."

The Pentagon looked into the need for this directive, at the request of the Senate subcommittee.

When asked what action it was taking, the Pentagon issued this terse statement: "The Department of Defense has taken action to cancel the directive, effective immediately."